

THE EMIGRATION

OF

GENTLEMEN'S SONS

TO THE

UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

THE number of gentlemen's sons that annually leave this country for Canada and the United States, makes the question of the initiatory step to be taken in such a move a constantly recurring one in hundreds of households.

I presume it is hardly necessary to point out that the only possible course by which a young man can fit himself for the management of land in a strange country, is by some sort of apprenticeship to an experienced farmer in that country, in whose household he may become initiated into its farm life and work, and the value of its lands.

Taking this then for granted, I will make a few remarks on the different methods of sending out young men, based not upon theory nor upon second-hand information, but upon a ten years' personal experience of America, American farms and American farming.

In former years when this class of emigration was comparatively small and the movement desultory, there were two courses open to a young man's friends, either to send him out to shift for himself or to send him to some Englishman settled in the country as a pupil. With regard to the former method, it rested entirely on the character, age, and experience of the young man himself. The risk run was great.

To launch the young Englishman, fresh perhaps from school, amid the snare, and pitfalls into which, in a totally strange country inexperience might lead him, was, in a majority of cases, as unwise as it was unfair.

Many took what was then the only other step, and sent their sons to English gentlemen settled in America through advertisements or through mutual acquaintances, at premiums varying from £100 to £150 per annum.

The objections to this plan were numerous—no choice was offered and distance forbade a personal inspection. In many cases, there was no sort of guarantee that the home

offered was desirable. In others, friends and references in England could often merely speak to the identity of the person in question, and enlarge, perhaps, on his social connections, their recollections of him as a boy, &c.. As to his position in the country of his adoption, they had not probably the most remote idea. Many again were but learners themselves, while those who were fit for the trust, no one who has seen much of this kind of thing will deny for a moment, were the exception and not the rule. Indeed, how should it have been otherwise. Again, when dissatisfaction arose, as under such a haphazard system, was certain to arise in great numbers of cases between farmer and pupil, where was the remedy? A continuous connection between the dissatisfied parties was almost a necessity. The young man's friends in England knew nothing of the country. There was no step to relieve the situation; no impartial friend on the spot to whom they could apply for an adjustment of matters to some more satisfactory form. A high premium had perhaps been paid in advance and added to the difficulty.

When I say that it is quite unnecessary to pay a premium of £100 to £150 a year, or more, I do not mean merely that it would be prudent for a young man to forego the benefits that this would procure him, but that precisely the same benefits as these can be not only procured, but, more than that, guaranteed for from one-half to one-third of that sum under the system which, with its different variations, I consider to be the only safe one; while if he elect the less agreeable but perhaps more profitable road to experience in the household of a practical American or Canadian farmer, even that expense can be, to a great extent, saved.

As the demand arose, consequent on increasing emigration, for a more economical and reliable method of starting young men abroad, several agencies and schemes sprang into existence, upon methods, which though far from faultless and of course depending wholly on the efficiency and good faith of their conductors, are yet based upon the only true framework, namely, *that of farmers being selected in various neighbourhoods for such trusts by competent and*

experienced people living upon the spot, who again in their turn act themselves as referee, guardian, and friend, in case of those emergencies which with the greatest care and without fault on any side may now and then arise.

The best terms that can be got for an inexperienced young Englishman not brought up to bodily toil, the best, indeed, that could, with rare exceptions, be expected for the first year (the busy and the dead season included) is free board and lodging in return for work ; and those who are familiar with the amount of experience that is required to make an average teamster, ploughman, axeman, &c., and the time lost, and the risk to animals run in acquiring the elements of such accomplishments, are also well aware that the utmost application on the part of a beginner is necessary to make his services for the first twelve months worth his board and lodging in an ordinary American farm house.

"Wages from the first," which are advertised by some London firms, are generally arranged in the following way. A premium, amounting to about the first year's wages, is paid to the farmer out of the premium paid by the young man or his friends, to the Company, or, in other words, the young man works for his board, while his parent or guardian actually pays him the wages for the first year, at the end of which all binding engagements cease, and he stands upon his own merits to make a new contract. Whatever his worth be in the market he will certainly get that and neither more nor less if he elect to work anywhere for a second year. Nor is it necessary to add, that the fact of having received back in the shape of wages from the farmer that portion of his premium which was paid to the latter for that purpose, is no guarantee for the continuation of such wages when no further fund is forthcoming to provide them.

The premium of the London agencies now working is from £60 to £110. A part of this, say £20, as I have shewn, is paid to the farmer, who pays it back, month by month, to his pupil ; or, in other words, the latter works for his board. The remainder (£50) goes to the agency, and is the sum paid for their services. The expenses of large

establishments in London are doubtless great, and the expense of a number of persons employed upon this side, working through agents beyond the Atlantic, as these organizations do, renders a large premium for their services alone, perhaps a necessity. With that, however, I have nothing to do, but wish to draw attention to what I consider the most efficient form of this system, and the one in which the interests of the young emigrant can be more immediately and more directly watched over, and which can be worked at less expense, and consequently at a far less cost to people requiring its services.

In the first place, the gentleman in America, who has the placing and the superintending of the young men, instead of acting as the subordinate and agent of a company in England, should himself be directly prominent as an individual, as to him much of the responsibility belongs. He should be an English gentleman who has lived long in the country and thoroughly understands his own locality and its people, or an American gentleman who has a thorough knowledge of English character.

It is desirable also, that the gentleman alluded to should have a home in the state or province he works in, at which he may receive, if it is thought advisable, the young man on his first arrival in the country, and to which the latter may look as a temporary head-quarters in case of any possible emergency. Then there must of course be a representative in England, who can personally interview or correspond with candidates for emigration or their friends and make all necessary arrangements. It is an incalculable advantage of course if such a representative has himself a long personal experience of American farming life, as he is then able to depict what an emigrant has to look to, in a manner impossible for those that have had no experience of the country or only that of a mere traveller.

PART I.

All the foregoing conditions are contained in the arrangements which three years ago I set on foot and which I am happy to say have been doing a constantly increasing work with the greatest success.

My own transatlantic experience and intimate connection with the new world consequent on many years of residence, gave me an exceptional opportunity of acquiring coadjutors in the States and Canada, whose capacity for this work has done much towards achieving this satisfactory result.

This same experience, moreover, has given me, as English representative of our organization, a great advantage—in discussing the preliminaries with intending emigrants or their friends—in determining the suitability of different districts for the various applicants—or, as is frequently necessary, discouraging those for whom such a step would be unwise and ill-judged.

We undertake to receive young Englishmen about to emigrate whose age and inexperience requires help and guidance, at any of our centres in America and Canada, and place them to the best of our judgment where they may learn American farming in the most efficient and economical manner compatible with a good home.

We exercise supervision over them for the first year in all cases and longer if specially agreed upon. All preliminary correspondence regarding details of the life, outfit, arrangements for sailing, etc., is conducted by myself from my London office, where I attend daily from 11 to 6 and where personal interviews, as well as correspondence, are invited.

The duties of my coadjutors upon the other side of the Atlantic are set forth in their several circulars. They not only receive the young men in the first instance and place them with farmers whom they consider to be fitting persons, but they are prepared to attend throughout the first year to all those matters so far as lies in their power in which a very young man in a strange country

may need help and advice. This includes, as elsewhere stated, a change of home whenever such should seem desirable.

We cannot of course guarantee parents or guardians against the effects of vice, idleness, or deliberate folly on the part of young men. The method upon which our arrangements are based contain in themselves every reasonable precaution against such calamities; if in spite of such removal of temptation, trouble does occur, we can only undertake to act to the best of our judgment or in accordance with the wishes of the young man's friends at home.

We can only be of service to the young men so long as they follow the advice and instructions of the gentleman in charge of the district in America to which they are sent. For the effects of opposition to him or independent action we decline responsibility. The best is done to prevent such trouble and to rectify it should it arise, but it will at once be seen that this is a very different matter from assuming a very grave responsibility to a third person over an individual whose actions may render the best efforts futile, or who, to justify his own errors, may make the grossest misrepresentations.

Such cases in our experience fortunately are extremely rare—but the possibility of their occurrence must be taken into account in dealing with great numbers of young men of whom we have no former personal knowledge, and who themselves are undertaking a totally strange career.

The fee for our services, as stated upon the circulars, is £25. This is payable upon the day the young man sails. The principal centres to which our young men go are in Ontario, Manitoba, Virginia and Florida, and these are presided over by personal friends of my own. We have also connections in Iowa, New Mexico, Texas and California. It must be borne in mind that when a young man has decided to essay the career of an American farmer there is no necessity whatever for him to make up his mind before he has even seen America what state or province he shall ultimately settle in as a landholder. The first

important step is to fit himself for the life, to practically learn its methods and moreover to test his untried capacity for the career.

For this purpose some parts of the country are much better than others.

We will in the first place take a brief notice of Ontario.

PART II.

ONTARIO.

This Canadian province is an admirable training ground for young Englishmen who intend farming in any part of the dominion or in the Northern or Central Western States.

The farms are compact and well tilled and comprise the manipulation of most crops and the handling of most tools known to American agriculture above the planting States.

The farmers are unsurpassed upon the continent for industry and thrift. The homesteads are generally substantial and well built. The country is healthy and physically attractive. It is very accessible from England and in all ways well adapted for a young emigrant's first essay—if he really "means business." The young men that go through us to Ontario rarely cost anything in the way of board and lodging from the day of their arrival in the country. They are received by Mr. Rackham in the first instance and generally remain a few days at his house. He then places them with a practical farmer upon the understanding that they receive board and lodging for their services. They are expected to do their best. Lack of energy or of average physical health and strength, want of steadiness, or other reasons such as would fairly justify farmers in refusing to continue such conditions are to be regretted, as they would entail some further outlay for his maintenance on the part of the young man's friends—as I need hardly say we do not make our-

selves financially responsible for the support of young men who for any reason fail to make their services worth their board.

Such cases, however, in our experience so far are extremely rare; they would, moreover, generally mean that the young man was unfitted for the life which he had chosen—and it is better that such a mistake should be revealed as soon as possible. Mr. Rackham does not make binding engagements with the farmers. He reserves himself free to remove the young man to another farm if good cause should arise. A binding engagement that compels two people to live with one another may moreover be practically annulled by the one anxious to dissolve it making the connection unendurable to the other.

Work upon an Ontario farm is hard and constant. Living is plain but plentiful; refinements and luxuries entirely absent; conveniences often of the crudest description. But still regarding what settlers in the West and in the Colonies—men often of large capital—have to put up with, we feel convinced that a young man who cannot stand an Ontario farm is in most cases not likely to succeed as farmer in the North or West. By far the greater majority of our young men, however, have adapted themselves well to the life, and have taken to it with spirit and determination, and often with real liking, more particularly some of the younger ones. Against the hard work and plain living must however be placed not only the economy of the training but it must be remembered that a young man at the end of it is a very different sort of a workman from the article pupil at £100 or £150 a year at the end of the same period.

The Ontario farm houses are generally very good. The country healthy and attractive, well populated with good roads, markets, churches, doctors, and all the surroundings of civilization. The winter, as everybody knows, is a severe one. It is however a steady cold and Ontario being naturally a forest country as well as an old settled one where much stock is wintered, there is plenty of work in that season both in the woods and stack yards.

Now one word as to the position of the young emigrant towards the farmer with whom he is placed.

There are foolish people now and then to be heard lifting up their voices in protest against what they call "sending out young English gentlemen to work as English labourers." In the first place we would never recommend any young man to go to America except with his own wish and consent. In the second place, we would at once recommend these worthy folks to get "Hodge" out of their brains; he has no equivalent of any kind beyond the Atlantic.

There is no "class" of labourers in Canada or the states, the negroes of the South excepted. Farmers for the most part with the help of their families do their own work. Assistance when required is hired sometimes by the year, but more often only in busy seasons and then dispensed with. Such hired help is often drawn from neighbouring farmers who are over-stocked with sons. There is no sense of inferiority whatever attached to the employé of a farmer—he may be above the latter strictly speaking in a social sense, or he may be from a less prosperous grade of the community: but such matters do not enter into the consideration of their mutual relations. The Canadian farmer and his whole household whoever they may happen to be, live together on terms of absolute equality. People who think cutting down trees an allowable occupation but feeding pigs degrading; who consider that stacking wheat, or possibly, ploughing, is not under the exigencies of the case unworthy of a gentleman, but that carting manure or cleaning out the stable are derogatory, had better have nothing to do with emigration when a limited capital is the case.

Such discriminations are inconceivable to a Canadian farmer and appear ridiculous to Englishmen who are farming or who have farmed in America and understand the spirit in which work is done there. Young men therefore, who work with Ontario farmers with a view to some day being farmers themselves will have to take part in any work that happens to be going on and do anything they are asked.

Learning farming in England is done by walking about observing operations, taking a hand sometimes in the harvest field, and paying £100 to £200 a year. Learning farming in Canada can only be done thoroughly by working on a farm for wages in the shape of board and lodging in the farmer's family at first, or more of course if it can be got. If the work be hard and the hours long it must be remembered that the work and the hours are the custom of the country, and that they are shared by all agriculturalists in person, rich and poor, educated and illiterate.

If the young emigrant cannot stand the life it need necessarily be no fault of his own. I know at this moment quite young and fragile lads from luxurious homes, about whom great doubt was felt when it was decided that they should make their essay at any rate on trial, in a plain Canadian farmer's house on these terms—but have succeeded perfectly. While on the other hand I have seen some, very few certainly, but still some few young men, who in spite of health and strength and strong protestations of indifference to hard work and plain living, fail entirely when put to the test. This need not always be a matter of reproach to the emigrant in question. A dislike of desk work impels many young fellows to overestimate the luxury of mere fresh air and to underrate the monotony of a manual employment they have no experience of. The discovery that they are unfitted for such an occupation may be looked upon as a misfortune and a disappointment. It need not necessarily be made a matter of disgrace. Capacity for a perfectly strange and untried life cannot be assured till it has been tested, and if a mistake is found to have been made, the sooner after a reasonable trial it is unmade, the better. An experiment such as this lasting, let us say, six months, will after all, the voyage included, have cost scarcely more than the same period at a public school or similar institution. Do not let us be misconstrued into recommending such a course to be lightly taken merely as an experiment; what we do mean is that in the event of a serious purpose to become an American or Canadian.

farmer, being defeated by a distaste for the life, a withdrawal is not quite the same thing as the withdrawal of a would-be engineer or lawyer after spending several years and many hundred pounds on articles and premiums. Again, there must always be found here and there young men who fail in emigration as they fail in everything else. It is a distinguishing trait of such characters that they are apt to lay the blame of their failure on every back but their own. To give satisfaction in such cases is far beyond mortal power. To guard against such an occurrence now and then is an impossibility. The disagreeables moreover of such are so great that the bare risk of unavoidably meeting with them impart to this work a far greater anxiety than it otherwise would have.

I have laid more stress on these matters than our past experience warrants, for by far the greater portion of our young men have succeeded in their work.

What I wish however to point out is that the responsibility of the step must be with parents or guardians themselves. We do the best that we possibly can for young men going out through our hands. More we cannot do. If people have thoroughly reliable friends to whom the young man can be entrusted that is of course another matter. If again he be of an age and character to warrant making the essay upon his own account there is no reason why he should not do so. In the absence however of these conditions our arrangements will be found the best guarantee. It is impossible in all cases to ensure harmony when bringing a Canadian farmer and an English gentleman's son into intimate connection for the first time who have never seen each other before, and are of entirely different habits, training and associations. Now and then friction will arise through no special fault perhaps of either. A prompt change of quarters only possible under an arrangement like ours is then a simple remedy. In some cases that have come under our charge apparent failure has been converted into success by a judicious change of home. Occasionally when one change has not had the desired effect a second has been resorted to and produced contentment and success. It is in such cases

perhaps, that the striking advantage of such supervision as we give, is most apparent.

MANITOBA.

With regard to this province the relations of young men going out to Mr. Kelly of Brandon are precisely same as those are to Mr. Rackham in Ontario. The general points of such relationship therefore have been so thoroughly discussed that it only remains to touch on those differences which are due to local conditions.

Owing to the comparatively crude state of life in the prairie province it is not easy to find many settlers who would give an inexperienced young man his board and lodging for his services and at the same time afford him a home that in our opinion is sufficiently desirable. Of course young men acting on their own responsibility may put up for a short time with quarters and associations that we should not feel justified in utilizing when acting for others. Most of the homes that could be got upon these terms would be so confined and rough in their interiors, and the people of such an unsubstantial description in the matter of property and on so small a scale, as to render the wisdom of any connection of this kind with them extremely doubtful.

Mr. Kelly after a good deal of experience in the matter has come to the conclusion that he must for the present decline the charge of any young men whose parents are not prepared to pay from £2 to £4 a month in the shape of board throughout the first year. A personal investigation last autumn on my own part convinced me that he was right. Good house accommodation is still scarce in the North West. Those people that live less roughly and in a better style than the majority of settlers and have better houses are inclined to set a certain amount of value on such, added to which the long winter in a prairie country renders all outside assistance superfluous, and in regarding the matter of a home that is expected to continue through the whole year, this has to be taken into consideration. Mr. Kelly operates over a large area of country and occasionally finds openings where board

will be given free and the surroundings at the same time sufficiently desirable in his estimation. These however, till the country gets older, will be the exceptions, as a rule some board will have to be paid as before stated.

There is no doubt but that Manitoba is the part of Canada to which the settler with small capital should eventually look. For those therefore who have a preference for going directly to the North West, Mr. Kelly who has several years experience of farming in the country, will make the best arrangements possible.

VIRGINIA.

For the South and South West the above State is for every reason a first rate training ground, and more than that, it is an excellent field for the permanent settlement of persons with small and moderate capital. The climate is exceedingly healthy, and the seasons open.

Unlike Canada where the farmers are for the most part of one class, all varieties of people in Virginia are found living upon the soil, from educated gentlemen to illiterate mountaineers. It is with the better class of farmers that our young men are placed by Major Saunders, and upon terms which vary according to circumstances. (See circular)

Major Saunders is a Virginian gentleman of an old established family; he was an officer in the Civil War of 1861 to '65 and at one time represented his county in the legislature. He was a delegate from his county (1885) to the agricultural convention at Richmond and for the State of Virginia at the national farmer's convention in Chicago (1885); he lives at his home of Caryswood, near Evington, in the County of Campbell.

Major Saunders' long experience of his own State, his wide connections in all parts of it give him facilities for placing his young men that English agents or local settlers cannot possibly share. These natural facilities, moreover, are helped by frequent journeys and correspondences in this particular interest and by some years' experience of the class of young Englishmen under notice both as a pupil and a settler.

As an instance "Free board and lodging for work"

is not popularly supposed to be possible in a respectable family in Virginia for the class of emigrant under consideration.

If an enquirer were to ask an English settler from that State whether such terms were obtainable, the latter would be almost sure to say they were not. Were he asked to take a young man into his own house his terms would run from £80 to £120, whether he were living roughly or well.

Again I notice that the London agencies who place young men have to charge £110 in Virginia.

Major Saunders, however, being on the spot and having the special advantages above alluded to, is able to get the very best homes in the State for his young men at a cost, the very maximum of which is far below these figures.

The cost of the first year, inclusive of premium, to young men going to Virginia through our hands ranges from £75 down to £25, or in other words as stated in circular, Major Saunders never pays more than £50 a year board, more often pays from £35 to £40 and secures some few openings every year where a free home is given for work. Major Saunders confines himself to no one portion of the State. He picks out the best localities and the best people.

In comparing Virginia with Canada and the North it must be remembered that wages in the former are comparatively low, the value of unskilled assistance much less, and the conditions of life almost always less rough than in more Northern and Western latitudes.

For information on Virginia see "Virginia for English settlers" price 6d., Virginia handbook with maps," price 2s.; both to be had at this office.

PART III.

FLORIDA.

In view of the large emigration to this State, I am making arrangements for the reception of young men and others who wish to go out as learners on to groves or fruit farms. The conditions of Florida make the position

of the new comer somewhat different from what it often is in more northerly countries. His assistance is generally regarded as of less value and he must, as a rule, be content to learn his business as a pupil or paying boarder.

The great industries of Florida, orange growing combined with general fruit and vegetable culture, are practically speaking of recent development. They are carried on for the most part by strangers from other States and England who have come into the country within the last few years. Among these the well-to-do and educated element is very largely represented. The latter are also quite as successful in this particular line as the plainer settlers who in matters of general farming would probably be their superiors. The household of an English gentleman therefore settled in Florida offers to the learner as good practical instruction as that of an American,—a decided exception in other States,—while the difference in expense is little or nothing, all other things being equal. Parents, guardians and young men themselves naturally incline towards their own countrymen.

Our arrangements for the reception of young men are therefore made almost entirely with English gentlemen some time settled in the country. There are of course great numbers of these in all parts of the State ready to take young men upon their groves. Some are necessarily more practical and successful than others. Some have greater home advantages and comforts, some again have estates more healthily situated than those of others, while every degree of character and responsibility must perforce be represented. A constant business connection with Florida enables me to select from among these the most desirable homes with the most responsible people at moderate terms. A representative from this office moreover, has gone to Florida, and is making particular investigation upon this point.

It will be recognised then that the placing and supervising system with a central authority so invaluable in other parts is hardly applicable to Florida, where young men go direct into the households of responsible English gentlemen and pay a board. With regard to this latter feature it must

be explained that there is little or no demand for unskilled and unacclimatized assistance in Florida. The reasons for this are numerous, but not altogether easy of explanation. The climate to begin with, though not unhealthy, demands during parts of the year, considerable prudence on the part of the new comers. Educated settlers therefore shrink, and naturally so, from the responsibility, expense and trouble of an inmate, who will give only his work, when such work must necessarily be of a totally unskilled description and be indulged in only in moderation during the probationary period. Cheap negro labour moreover, is always available for ploughing, clearing and all rough work.

Again, in a new country, under which head Florida may be classed, tolerable accommodation is valued more highly than where house room is abundant. The two extremes of America, Manitoba and Florida, in this one feature at least have something in common.

The settler who has borne his pioneer hardships and who has made for himself a comfortable or at least sufficient home, is inclined to set some store by it. In all countries it must be remembered that the addition of an inmate to a household means something more than the market value of the food consumed. In a new country where housekeeping and catering are more troublesome this is felt even to a greater degree. That there may be isolated instances here and there in Florida of a young man going out and getting through his first year under more economical conditions is possible, but for all practical purposes those who go out to Florida with the intention of gaining experience to fit them for settlers, must expect to pay for their board.

Rates of board with the better class of settler vary from £40 to £80 a year. Generally speaking, when a young man was entrusted by his friends to the care of a planter and responsibility as well as other matters, entailed, the expense would be from £60 to £80. In such cases payments can be made quarterly or half-yearly either direct to the gentleman himself or through this office. In the case of young men who are the managers of their own affairs, their best plan is to board by the month, at rates from £3 10s. to £5.

We are now prepared to arrange all such matters before sailing, for parents, guardians or others, and have every facility for getting the best homes and the best care the country affords.

For all such special arrangements made through us there is an office fee of from £5 to £10, payable on or before the date of sailing from Liverpool. This applies to Florida only, as in the latter case there is no premium payable, but only the board money to the planter.

All general information however, relating to this or other States, we are at all times glad to give without fees or charges of any kind.

The cost of a first class ticket from Liverpool to Florida and the necessary extras incident on such a journey, may be estimated at from £20 to £25.

PART IV.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As one of our chief objects is to make as good terms as possible with the farmer for the young emigrant, it is hardly to be supposed that the latter would gain anything in this respect by being without such help at such a time in a strange country and among a strange people.

Against the cost of settling through this organization must be placed the necessary hotel expenses to be incurred by a young man going out upon his own account and looking about for a home. Pre-supposing in such a case perfect steadiness, invulnerability to temptation, and the most supernatural wisdom possible for a young man of 18 or 19, several pounds will in all probability be consumed before the necessary object is attained.

With the lack of such qualities, however,—a lack that might be often remedied by a safer preliminary course—the result cannot always be measured by mere pounds, shillings and pence. Such intervals of premature freedom, under exceptionally trying circumstances, become too often, as is well known, the cause of a ruined life.

In our hands, however, the young man is transferred at once into his new home, and into wholesome country surroundings, and that interlude of vague "looking about," which is so dangerous and also so costly, is avoided. Again, it is hardly to be supposed that such a young man, without any knowledge of the country, the neighbourhood, or its people, would be so likely to fall into a desirable place as if such had been previously picked out for him, with a wide extent of country to choose from, by a person intimate with that region, its people, and specially experienced in these particular matters.

It must be remembered too that apart from other motives, it is as much to our interest as the parents' that we obtain good homes, as we thereby reduce the probability of a justifiable desire for change of quarters, and the work entailed in effecting such, which is our duty in case of need.

The gentlemen in charge of the different centres in America not only do all this but attend to any complaint or trouble that may occur, settle any complication or difficulty in which the young man may find himself, and keep parents informed of their sons' welfare, and form competent and unbiassed judges of his suitability for the life he has taken up.

Three or four times a year experienced persons are sent out in charge of all those for whom the benefit of an escort is thought desirable.

It may be as well here to caution people against the delusive statements that often appear with regard to agricultural wages in the States and Canada. Summer wages are too often quoted as if they were continuous, and not counteracted by a corresponding deficit during the winter months. That these too are the wages of skilled and hardened labourers, unquestionably, the most hard-working and energetic in the world, and not of young gentlemen fresh from a public school, seems often to be deliberately ignored by the irresponsible and anonymous newspaper correspondents who sometimes undertake to enlighten the young emigrant of the better class on his course of procedure. What the motives are for such

wanton deception it is sometimes easy to trace. Sometimes, however, it seems to be mere thoughtlessness leading the untinking and the credulous to certain and bitter disappointment.

Anyone who has practical experience of American farm life is well aware that the number of young English gentlemen who are not at first worth their board to farmers is greater than that of the few who may be worth a small wage in addition. Whenever the latter is feasible, arrangements for such are made; but, as a general thing, industry taken for granted, a lad who gets through his first year, busy and dull months inclusive, by giving his services for his keep, does as well as can be expected.

Farming is like other trades; the handling of its tools requires as much apprenticeship as those of any other, while a stock of steady physical energy, quite unprecedented in the former lives of young English gentlemen, has to be superadded as a matter of course. The difference in value between such beginners and an American working man is immense. For fully realizing this an American experience is perhaps necessary.

In certain cases it is well to go to a home of a higher social description and pay a board. Such questions should always be made matters of previous correspondence.

By the second year a young man of average strength and industry should be able to earn some wages as well as his keep. In regard to selection of state or province. This must always depend more or less on the circumstances and predilection of the intending emigrant. I shall always be glad to give inquirers all the information in my power on such a subject.

APPENDIX.

It is the custom of some to rail against premiums of all kinds in connection with emigration. Such a position is ridiculous and illogical. Uneducated American farmers, and sometimes American city men are often advocates

of the "Survival of the fittest system." Their own sons are perfectly able to go out in the world and take care of themselves. The young American by virtue of his nationality and training is as precocious in matters practical as the young English gentleman is generally the reverse. The former moreover has the advantage of being in his own country and among his own people. It is well nigh impossible for the average American or Canadian to realize the position of such a young Englishman on first landing in America. He may, and probably will, be very kind to him but he will not understand him because he does not in the least understand the peculiar social life of England which produces this class of emigrant. The only harm of this is that it sometimes causes Americans to give spartan advice to English friends in the matter of sending young men abroad, when they are generally not qualified to do so for the reasons given above. Furthermore the ignorance that exists both in the older States and Canada among the mass of educated townfolk with regard to farmers and farming, is greater than an Englishman accustomed to the prevalence and prestige of rural affairs in this country could conceive possible. And it is precisely this former class of American with which Englishmen come most in contact in Europe.

With regard to the "Survival of the fittest" doctrine in favour with many Americans and others, more especially when no responsibility is involved in the advice, we know there are plenty of young Englishmen of the class in question who have been landed in America with the proverbial half-crown, who have tramped about and got odd jobs here, there and everywhere, turned off as soon as done with, and battered from pillar to post. There are young men who have done this and survived, proud of the performance and perhaps justly so. We do not hear of the nine that collapsed; but the one who has succeeded with the confident generalizing of youth strongly urges the parental public not to pay farmers, planters, agents or anybody else anything, but to make the same experiment with their sons. We hardly know which is worst (we are alluding of course only to very young fellows) the physical

risk of this, or the moral risk of landing them in the same way as independent characters with a sufficiency of money in their pocket to allow them for a time at least to live comfortably wherever they choose. That a minority would perhaps survive both ordeals is no argument whatever for their being ventured upon, when the alternative may be disaster that cannot be estimated by either pounds, or dollars, and that too when practical security can be had for what is comparatively a trifling outlay.

Then there is the English gentleman settler who has made a business of taking pupils at a high premium. His interests are of course opposed to all systems and individuals which tend to lowering his terms and narrowing his clientèle. It would not be human nature if he did not enlarge unnecessarily upon the rough living and hard work of the household of a working farmer who took a young man free of charge: just as the American farmers think from the local point of view that he in turn imposes hugely on his English friends by charging them two or three times the ordinary rates of board, and getting their work as well. No one will deny the aforesaid settlers' right to charge £100 or £150 a year if he likes, but it will be readily seen that individuals or organizations who make it their business to secure equal and often greater all round advantages than he can give with double the responsibility at a third or a half the cost will not be popular in such a quarter. Irresponsible people too of all kinds and descriptions who have ever set foot on American soil or even have relations that have done so, rush to the front with advice on a subject the discussion of whose very elements require a considerable experience; while knowledge sufficient to be a trustworthy authority demands not merely a long but a varied one. The returned settler whose knowledge of America is confined to a single county in a single State in the North West is often quite prepared with a programme for the intending emigrant to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. An Englishman who has never crossed the channel would be almost as well qualified to advise an American with regard to operations in Hungary! But the general vagueness with regard to America upon this side

of the Atlantic often prevents the recognition of such absurdities.

The only possible opening for criticism which our system as conducted by us could afford to any but the ignorant or the interested, would be in the case of failing to carry out what we undertake. The same criticism would be applicable in case of failure we presume to any of the transactions of life with the similar result, namely, want of confidence. It would be strange indeed, if motives of mere self-interest, let alone any higher ones, did not prevent us from such senseless blunders as that. With a three years' existence moreover, the proofs to the contrary are always so easily available, that we may dismiss, I think the subject as irrelevant. With regard to the premium. It is placed as low as is compatible with efficient management. The actual expenditure is considerable. In addition to this the time and services of responsible people have to be retained. From the peculiar nature of the work too, the anxiety is constant and great, the correspondence is very large indeed. If we persuaded and induced inexperienced people to send their sons to America, as to some eldorado and tied them down by written agreements the purport of which they only half understood, and in the case of failure attributed it as a matter of course to the emigrant and flung off all responsibility, then probably the trouble would be immensely lessened. The class of people who worked with us would be of a cheaper and an inferior stamp, the anxiety would be unfelt, the responsibility comparatively nothing, and the premium less, while the number of young men undertaken might for a time at any rate be much greater than we now care to receive.

A fairly long experience however, has evinced conclusive proof that our terms are at the minimum point possible for efficient work. As an indication of this I may point out that almost every other channel for this kind of emigration advertised throughout England, whether by agencies, companies, or individual settlers is very much more costly. With regard to the terms required by American farmers English people at times are apt to be a little unreasonable. They will pay without a murmur hundreds

of pounds that a son may be allowed to work as a common mechanic in the shops of some great engineer who undertakes no sort of after obligation and does not even keep, nay he scarcely sees his pupil. £500 for this is a species of premium that might indeed astonish the uninitiated. The same custom on a less costly scale applies to lawyers, auctioneers, etc., where neither expense of keep nor responsibility are involved. Setting aside the high class farm pupil establishments there are some farmers in England of a more homely description who undertake to make a pupil work in the field. People do not hesitate for a moment to pay £80 or £100 a year to such. The young man we will suppose is destined for America and in the English farm life money is more or less thrown away, but when the same parent turns towards America for the following year where his son will really begin to learn something useful, he is too often inclined to expect from Americans what he would not think of expecting from Englishmen. If the young man were to go back for a second year to the English farmer his work, by this time we presume at least partially understood, would not be mentioned and the same premium would be paid. Let an American farmer however be in the case, not the plain working farmer, but let us suppose a man superior to the aforesaid English farmer in birth, education and position, living perhaps in a good establishment on a fine farm in Virginia or Kentucky. In such cases, there is a tendency among Englishmen very often to be unfair in their expectations to forget that the keep in such a household is at least as expensive as in an ordinary English farmhouse, the associations very much better, the onus of an inmate equally burdensome, the technical ignorance of the young man as to American farm work absolute and his assistance of no greater value than it would be to the English farmer. There is far greater profit to the latter out of his £100 a year, than to the better class American who takes a pupil at £40 or £50. I have the best of reason for knowing that the cost of keep would be to all intent and purposes about the same. It is not quite easy therefore to account for a disposition here and there among English people to expect for little or nothing in America

a combination of advantages that in England they would pay heavily and cheerfully for. The rougher living, heavier work, and plainer accommodation of the Canadian farmers' house where free quarters are given from the first in return for inexperienced assistance is a home of very different description from the household of a large southern farmer of the educated class, and it is illogical to expect the same terms from both. One can at the same time fully understand the difficulty people unacquainted with America have in recognising the immense differences, both social and physical, presented by various sections. At any rate one is forced to recognise the tendency there is in England to lump the whole of the former country together in discussing emigration.

Another cause of possible misunderstanding, or at any rate slight feeling of soreness, is the occasionally tendency of young Englishmen to overrate the value of their elementary services and their inability to regard themselves from their employer's point of view. This is not unnatural, perhaps. The best proofs however that a matured experience corrects this error lies in the fact that when such young men become farmers and employers themselves, on however humble and rough a scale, they will rather over than under-pay skilled and native labour, but towards their own countrymen, occupying as they themselves have formerly done the position of newly arrived learners, they are far more exacting in their terms than native farmers. This is so notorious and universal that people, even with a slight practical acquaintance with America, will recognise it.

The awakening, however, comes too late to prevent now and again a young fellow from fancying that he ought to have "wages as well as his keep" in this household or to be "at least worth his board" in another where he is paying some. He does not reflect that in the first case the farmer if he wished to pay ordinary wages would hire an expert like himself and turn him off the instant he had done with him. In the second case, he forgets that by the lowest local rates, his keep is perhaps equal or nearly equal in cost to the entire expense of a first class outside hand. Self-confidence and want of experience, assisted sometimes by foolish and

irresponsible mischief-making outsiders, with "axes of their own to grind"—induces occasionally this restlessness which is to be regretted. The feeling is not unnatural and cannot be helped, but it is significant how completely it vanishes after the young man himself has been for a little time an employer and has to deal with his successors.

As I have already said we are not an "employment Bureau." We simply undertake to provide a channel through which gentlemen's sons intending emigration can be economically prepared in the country itself for the career of an American settler, and can at the same time be in the charge of people whose responsibility is established, and who guided by a thorough experience of the question will do the best that, according to their judgment can be done in each particular case. If assistance is required that demands the expenditure of money, and time and thought on the part of several persons, that entails anxieties and responsibilities that are peculiar and uncommon, we may fairly assume that in some shape or form it has to be paid for. Amateur advice may be had *ad nauseum*, but amateur assistance whether interested or disinterested or would-be philanthropic, can by its very nature convey no responsibility, and be troubled with but little anxiety. Like other conferred obligations it is apt to fling off all sense of both at the first hitch in connection with its protégé, attribute all blame to the latter, wash its hands of the connection, and bid friends and relations be thankful for mercies already received. Who is there that has lived long in America and is not familiar with this picture?

Premiums no doubt are carried often to a great excess and much money wasted on them. Those paid to professional men, engineers, and land agents etc., in England, greatly surpass in seeming discrepancy for value received, anything that has ever been attempted in America so far as I know, though large premiums are frequently paid to Englishmen in the latter for a most doubtful return. However that may be, such sums as we are alluding to, bear no relation to the moderate fee at which our organization conducts its work.

I have ventured these few general remarks as I have frequently seen absurd generalisms written on the matter by the ignorant, the interested and the irresponsible. Of the ability of these self-constituted critics to discuss the question the public has no knowledge, the editors who insert their letters, probably none, while the latter are necessarily ignorant of the practical points of the question.

For those at any rate who think differently there is always the option of experimenting upon the alternative and sending the young man out upon his own responsibilities. We by no means say that this must be always a failure. We only say that with a majority of lad's below a certain age, it is unfair, and the risk always considerable.

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